

Training

Instruction in Benefits of an Honorable Discharge

Headquarters
Department of the Army
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Unclassified

SUMMARY of CHANGE

AR 350-21

Instruction in Benefits of an Honorable Discharge

This revision updates addresses, office symbols, and references. Policy has not changed; however, the time of instruction is more explicit (para 6).

Effective 4 March 1985

Training

Instruction in Benefits of an Honorable Discharge

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:

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Brigadier General, United States Army
The Adjutant General

History. This UPDATE printing publishes a revision which is effective 4 March 1985. Because the structure of the entire revised text has been reorganized, no attempt has been made to highlight changes from the earlier regulation dated 9 November 1971. This publication has been reorganized to make it compatible with the Army electronic publishing database. No content has been changed.

Summary. This regulation on instruction in the benefits of an honorable discharge has been revised. It implements DOD Directive 1332.14, dated 28 January 1982. This regulation provides for periodic explanations to enlisted members of the types of separations; the basis for their issuance; the possible effects of various actions upon reenlistment, civilian employment, and veterans' benefits; and the effects of failing to complete at least 2 years of an original enlistment and related matters. This revision updates addresses, office symbols, and references.

Applicability. This regulation is applicable to all enlisted members of the Active Army and Reserve Component (Army National Guard of the United States (ARNGUS) and United States Army Reserve (USAR)) enlisted personnel on active duty 180 days or more.

Proponent and exception authority. Not applicable

Impact on New Manning System. This regulation does not contain information that affects the New Manning System.

Army management control process.

Supplementation. Supplementation of this regulation is prohibited without prior approval from HQDA(DAPC–EPA–AST), ALEX VA 22331–0400. Interim changes. Interim changes to this regulation are not official unless they are authenticated by The Adjutant General.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent agency of this regulation is the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to HQDA(DAPC–EPA–AST), ALEX VA 22331–0400.

Distribution. Active Army—A, ARNG—A, USAR—D.

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*This regulation supersedes AR 350–21, 9 November 1971.

RESERVED

1. Purpose

a. The high rate of enlisted personnel receiving other than honorable discharges is a concern of commanders at all levels. The consequences of receiving other than an honorable discharge can have a lasting adverse effect on the individual. Every effort must be made to ensure that enlisted personnel are made aware of such consequences. This regulation prescribes a program of instruction concerning the benefits derived from receiving an honorable discharge from the Army. The program affects all Active Army enlisted personnel and Reserve Component (Army National Guard of the United States (ARNGUS) and United States Army Reserve (USAR)) enlisted personnel on active duty 180 days or more.

b. This training should assist commanders in their efforts to minimize misconduct. Many service members gain the false impression that an unfavorable discharge can be easily recharacterized by petitioning the Army Discharge Review Board. This is not the case since only a small percentage of such petitions have been acted upon favorably. Many soldiers can be discouraged from the type of conduct which warrants an unfavorable discharge.

2. References

a. Required publications.

(1) DA Pam 635-2, Money in the Bank—an Honorable Discharge. (Cited in para 5*b.*)

(2) DA GTA 21-2-27 Chart, Benefits—Discharges. (Cited in para 5*a*(3).)

b. Related publication. AR 635-200, Personnel Separations—Enlisted Personnel.

c. Referenced form. DA Form 2-1, Personnel Qualification Record.

3. Explanation of abbreviations

a. ARNGUS...Army National Guard of the United States

b. Bfts of Hon Discharge...Benefits of an honorable discharge

c. TASC...Training and Audiovisual Support Center

d. UCMJ...Uniform Code of Military Justice

e. USAR...United States Army Reserve

4. Responsibilities

Commanders will ensure that this instruction is presented in a manner that will create the most lasting impression on each soldier who receives this training. Full use will be made of the training aids prescribed in paragraph 5.

5. Content of instruction

a. The instruction will include a comprehensive explanation of the following:

(1) The types of discharge certificates.

(2) The basis for issuance of each type of certificate.

(3) The possible effects of the various certificates on reenlistment, civilian employment, veterans' benefits, and related matters. For an explanation of veterans' entitlement, see the chart, Benefits—Discharges (Department of the Army GTA 21-2-27). It is available from your supporting U.S. Army Training and Audiovisual Support Center (TASC).

(4) The unlikelihood that the individual will be successful in any attempt to have the character of his or her separation changed.

b. DA Pam 635-2 was prepared to assist commanders in orienting personnel at the time of the explanation. The pamphlet which outlines the advantages of receiving an honorable discharge will be used as an aid to, but not as a substitute for, the explanation. DA Pam 635-2 is available through normal publications supply channels and will be issued to and reviewed with each soldier as a part of the required explanation (para 6).

6. Time of instruction

This training will be given to enlisted personnel upon entry into the service or within 60 days thereafter. It will be given again—

a. Upon completion of 6 months service.

b. After the second article 15 (company grade) or first field grade article 15 in an enlistment.

c. After any court-martial in which the soldier is not discharged, first drug abuse positive, and so forth.

7. Recording

The DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualifications—Part II) of each individual receiving instruction in the benefits of an honorable discharge will be annotated in item 19 (Specialized Training) as follows: "UCMJ (date) and Bfts of Hon Disch (date)."

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